Postal and Telecommunication Services in Meghalaya

*80. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development of postal and telecommunication services in Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

Postal—

Post Offices:

Meghalaya State is at present served by a network of 417 post offices. It has been reported by the Postmaster General, North Eastern Circle that the justification for additional post offices has been examined with reference to the prescribed norms and that 8 more post offices have been found justified. On receipt of theses proposals, Ministry of Finance will be approached by the Department for approval in-relaxation of the ban on creation of posts.

Postal Buildings:

(i) Construction of a new complex for Shillong GPO has been taken up. Two other buildings, one for Williamsnagar sub post office and another for Rongjeng sub post office are under construction.

(ii) Building project in respect of Nongstain sub post office has been sanctioned and the work thereon is scheduled to be commenced during the current year.

Telecommunications

(b) The Department's 7th Five Year Plan envisages the following important telecommunication development in Meghalaya:—

(i) Addition of Switching capacity	2055 lines
(ii) Replacement/Conversion	300 lines
(iii) Net Addition to Working Connections.	1852
(iv) Net Addition to capacity of Trunk Automatic Exchanges	700 lines
(v) Net Addition to Telex capacity	50 lines
(vi) UHF Radio Relay System	153 route kms.
(vii) Multi Access Radio Relay Systems	2
(viii) VHF Radio Relay Systems	3
(ix) Satellite Stations	5

Man-Power at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

386. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state,

(a) whether there is any plan to reduce the present man-power at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to settle the disputes, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Roadways passing through railway tunnels in Asansol-Dhanbad Complex

387. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the roadways passing through the Railway tunnels in Asansol-Dhanbad Industrial Complex are in bad shape;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such roadways are causing hazards to the pedestrians and vehicular traffic; and

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to take any steps to maintain the sections of the roadways lying within the jurisdiction of the railways inside the tunnels for improvement?